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CONTROLLER**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To protect a drive circuit from breakdown due to overcurrent, by detecting current of drive element and stopping control of the drive element upon judgement of overcurrent.

CONSTITUTION: A solenoid 5 is

controlled by means of a control signal G operated through CPU2 and I/O interface 3 based on data representing the condition of a vehicle (not shown) through a drive element 4. When the solenoid 5 is turned OFF, counter electromotive force and external surge are absorbed through a Zener diode 8 so as to protect the drive element 4. A portion of current flowing through the drive element 4 is fed to a sense resistor 9, then the voltage of the sense resistor 9 is compared with a predetermined level to judge whether overcurrent is fed or not. When overcurrent is fed, control signal G for the drive element 4 is turned OFF to prevent breakdown due to overcurrent, and an alarm lamp 7 is lighted. The predetermined voltage is taken from a battery 6 and varied corresponding thereto, thus causing no erroneous judgement.

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